

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

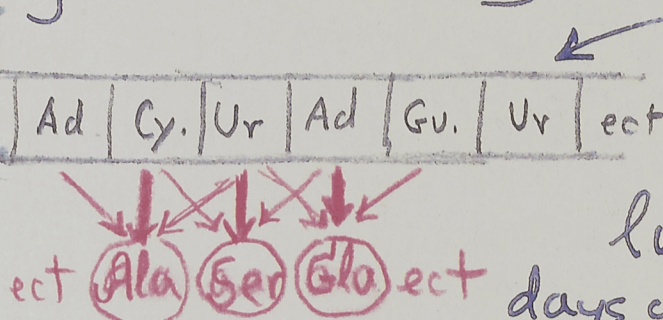
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

May 27th

Dear Francis,

Thank for your letter. Now I have completely shifted to RNA. When Jim was in the east I visited Pasadena, and together with Alek Rich and Leslie Orgel (you must know him, he is from Oxford) we devised a new code in which an a.a. is determined by three consecutive bases, the central one being a "major determinant", with two neighbours "only collaborating". Something like that:

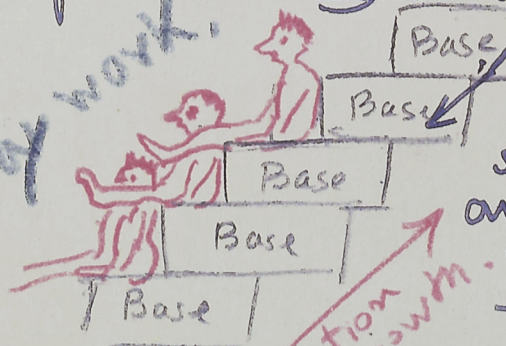
Does not work!



It looked at first very promising,

but after several days of hard work (using about 70 known ~~exact~~ ^{three} peptides) Dick Finemann ~~was~~ succeeded to show that no solution exists. I am now trying a new code recently suggested by Edward Teller, in which each new a.a. is determined by two bases and the preceding a.a. (This has a direction!). Do not know yet how good it is.

Does not work!



I am planning to spend August staying with Szent Gyorgyi in Woodshole and Jim plans to be there too. He writes that he will try ^{to arrange} also for you to come up. Then we can make a real attack on RNA! Yours Geo.